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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 5
Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Johan Verbeke (Belgium), on the basis of informal consultations

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Welcoming the fact that at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2005, the Economic and Social Council considered the theme "Strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations humanitarian assistance, including capacity as well as organizational aspects",

Welcoming also the fact that the Economic and Social Council held one panel on "Lessons learned from the recent Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami disaster",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;[1]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster[2] as well as of the report of the Secretary-General on the transition from relief to development;[3]

3. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen within their respective mandates essential common humanitarian services that are coordinated through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, so that these services can be provided in a predictable, efficient and effective manner;

[1] A/60/87-E/2005/78.
[2] A/60/86-E/2005/77.
[3] A/60/89-E/2005/79.

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4. *Also requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to engage systematically with relevant authorities and organizations at the regional and national levels to support efforts to strengthen humanitarian response capacities at all levels, in particular through preparedness programmes, with a view to improving the overall adequacy of the deployment of resources;

5. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should make efforts to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to develop further appropriate mechanisms for the identification and/or development of specialist technical expertise and capacity to fill gaps in critical humanitarian programming sectors, in order to improve the United Nations system's capacity to respond to humanitarian needs;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations and States, to discuss ways to help assess the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian response;

8. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should improve its ability to make the best use of existing humanitarian capacities at all levels;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to identify and use, as appropriate and available, local resources and expertise from within the affected country and/or its neighbours in response to humanitarian needs;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with States and relevant organizations, to further develop and improve, as required, mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacities, including, where appropriate, regional humanitarian capacities, under the auspices of the United Nations, inter alia, through formal agreements with appropriate regional organizations, and to report on this issue to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session through the Economic and Social Council;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop more systematic links with Member States offering military assets for natural disaster response in order to identify the availability of such assets;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity of and the support to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including through the provision of necessary training and the identification of resources and improving the identification and selection of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, to help provide a timely, predictable and appropriate response to humanitarian needs and to further improve United Nations coordination activities at the field level;

13. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations entities, under the coordination mandate of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to improve the development of common needs assessments and work towards more effective prioritization, including reviewing the Consolidated Appeals Process Needs Assessment Framework and Matrix;